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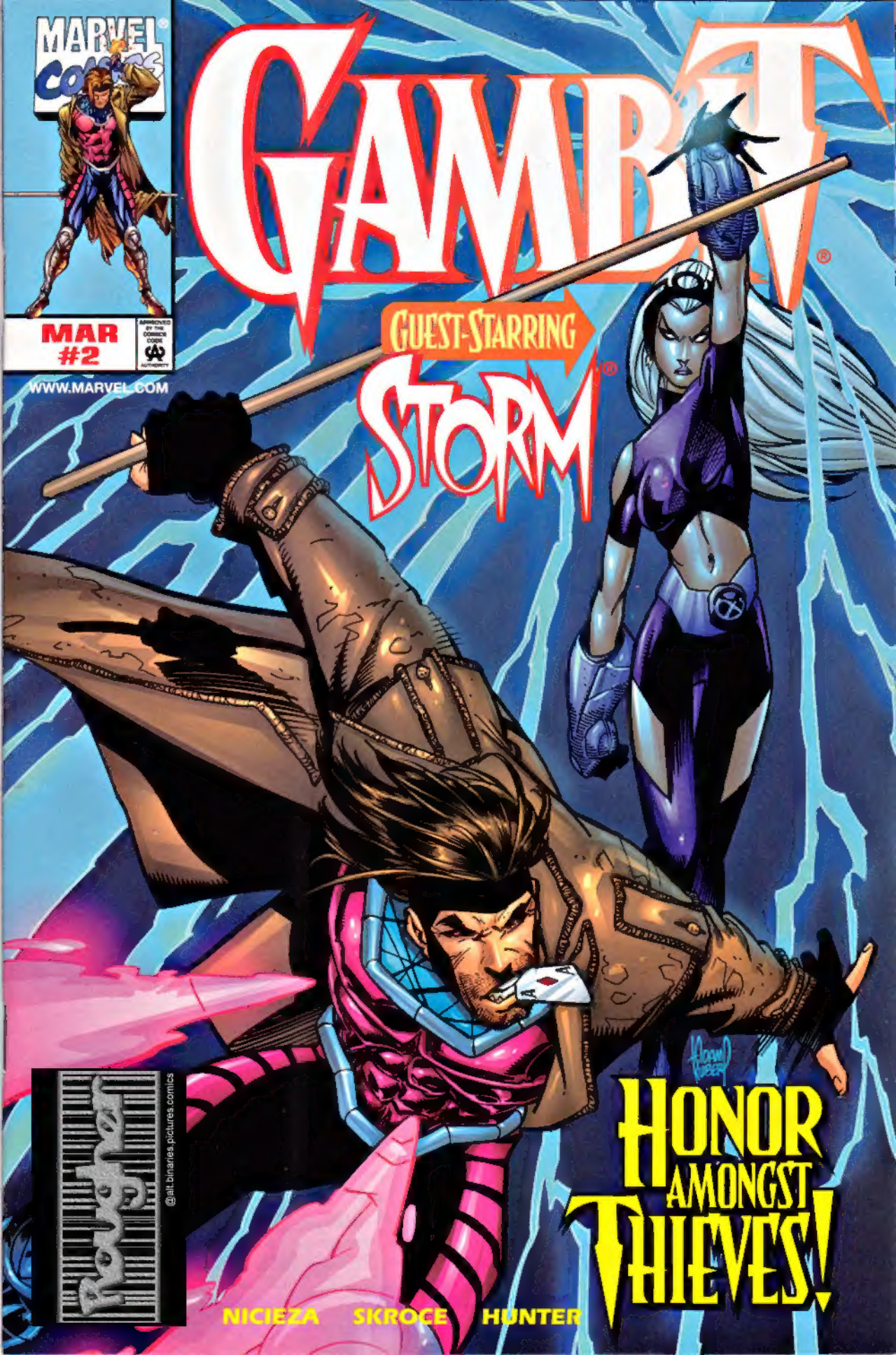


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GAMBIT

GUEST-STARRING

STORM



HONOR
AMONGST
THIEVES!

NICIEZA SKROCE HUNTER



@alt.binaries.pictures.comics



WHEN REMY LEBEAU, THE
THIEF OF HEARTS KNOWN
AS GAMBIT AND MEMBER IN
TENUOUS STANDING OF THE
OUTLAW MUTANT GROUP
THE X-MEN WAS TWELVE --

-- HE HOT-WIRED A
MILITARY JET. DON'T ASK,
HE HAD HIS REASONS.

AFTER REALIZING HE
HAD NO CLUE HOW
TO FLY OR LAND
THE CRAFT, HE WAS
FORCED TO EJECT.

IGNORING THE CONSEQUENCES
OF HIS ACT HAD MADE IT EASIER
FOR HIM TO ENJOY THE RIDE.

FUNNY HOW,
FOR NO APPARENT
REASON, A MEMORY
CAN KICK IN LIKE THAT...

YEE HAAAAA

Stan Lee Presents: The Man Of Steal in:

STORMBRINGERS

A TALE OF CHOICE & HONOR BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Fabian Nicieza & Steve Skroce ♦ Rob Hunter ♦ Shannon Blanchard ♦ RS/micraft/WA
writer • storytellers • penciler inker colors letters

GAMBIT created by Lee & Claremont ♦ Mark Powers editor ♦ Bob Harras hum...cane in chief

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COME VISIT SCENIC
SCOTLAND, BRING
A FRIEND.

DON'T FORGET TO
SPEND A NIGHT AT
THE SECLUDED MUIR
ISLAND GENETIC
RESEARCH CENTER.

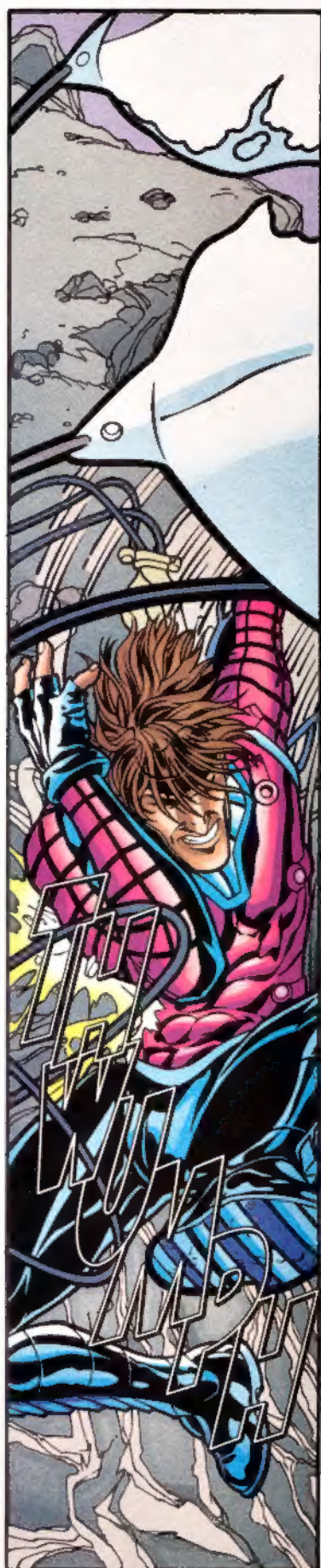
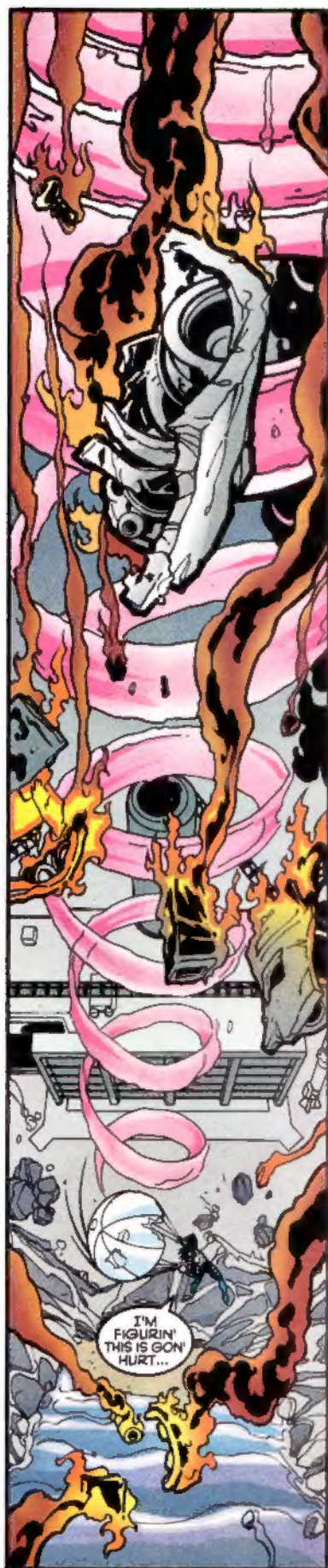
ASK WORLD-RENNOWNED
GENETICIST DOCTOR
MOIRA MacTAGGERT
ABOUT HER TOP SECRET
DATA ON MUTANTS
AND STUFF.

IF SHE'S NOT
WILLING TO
GIVE YOU THE
INFORMATION,
TRY TAKING IT.

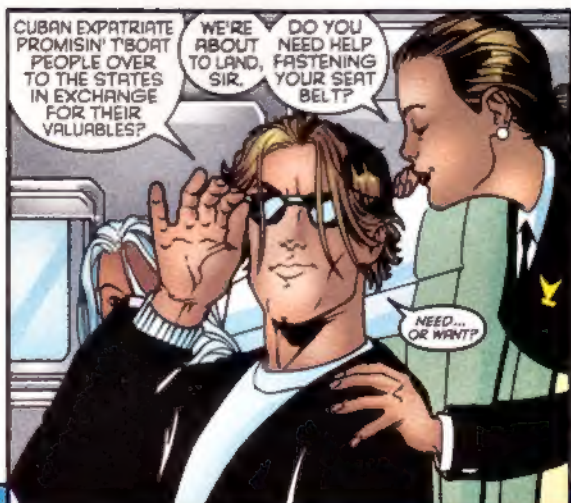
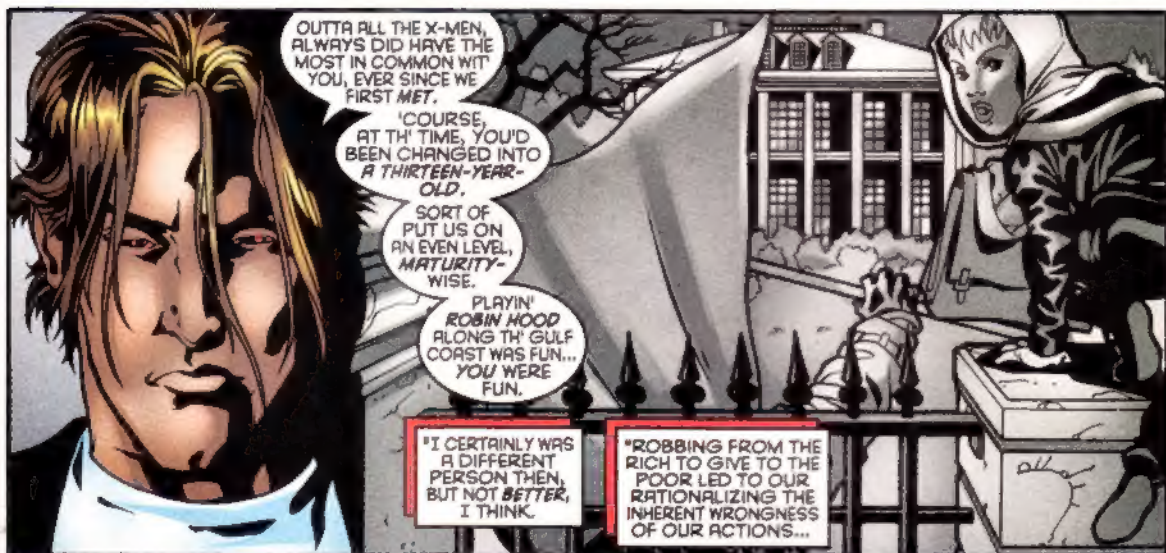


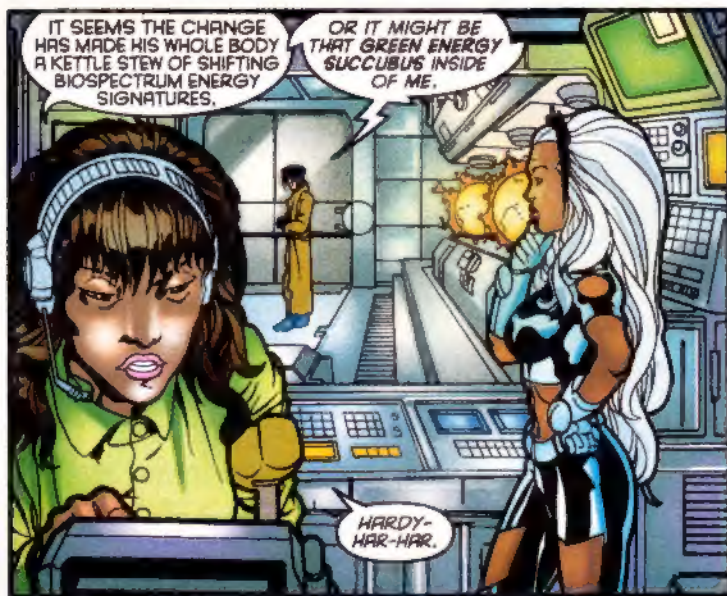
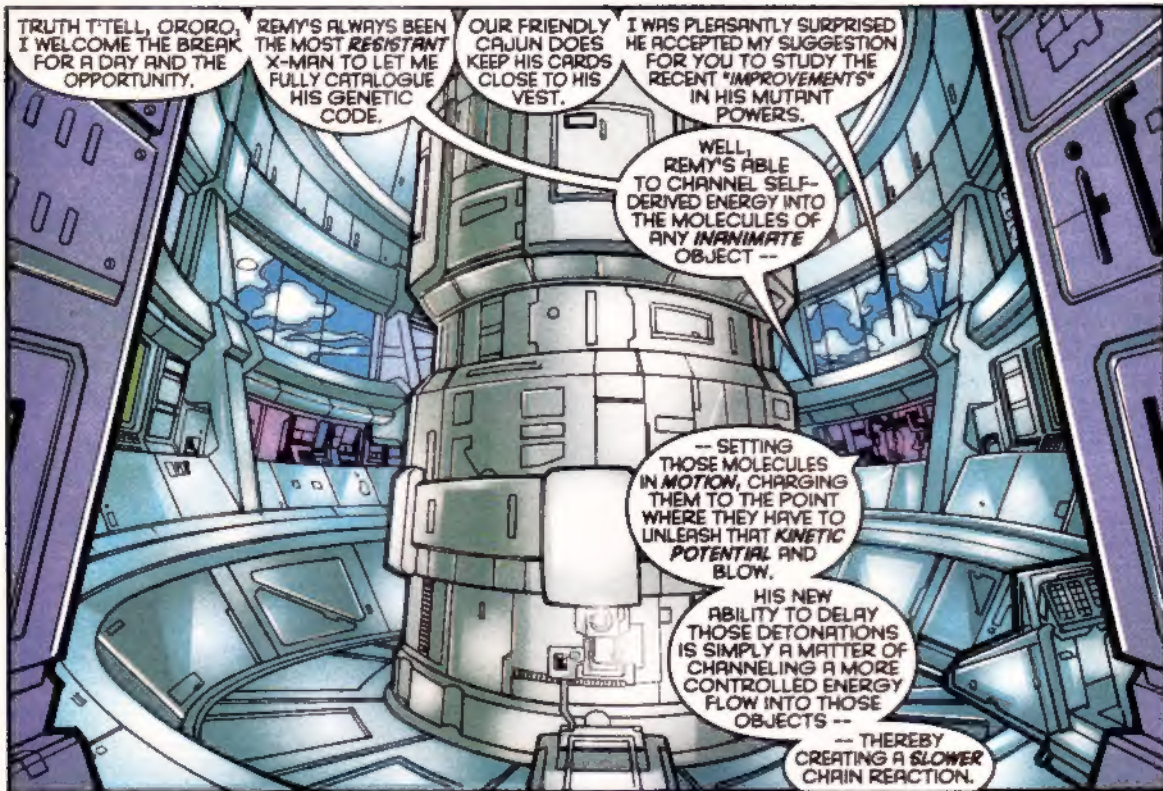
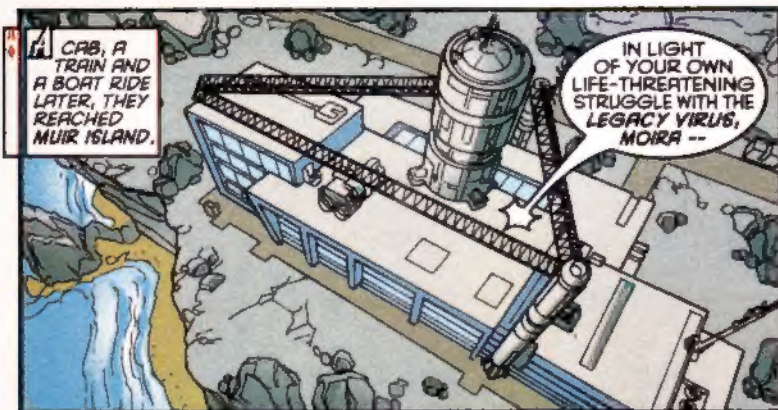
JUST WATCH OUT FOR THOSE
FAILSAFE SECURITY DEVICES
IN THE SYSTEMS DATACORE...

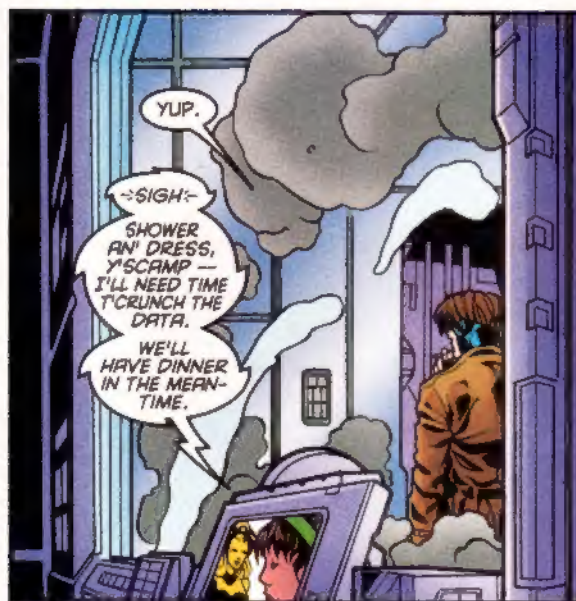
HA HA.
PARACHUTE
BUILT INTO
MY CHEST-
PLATE.

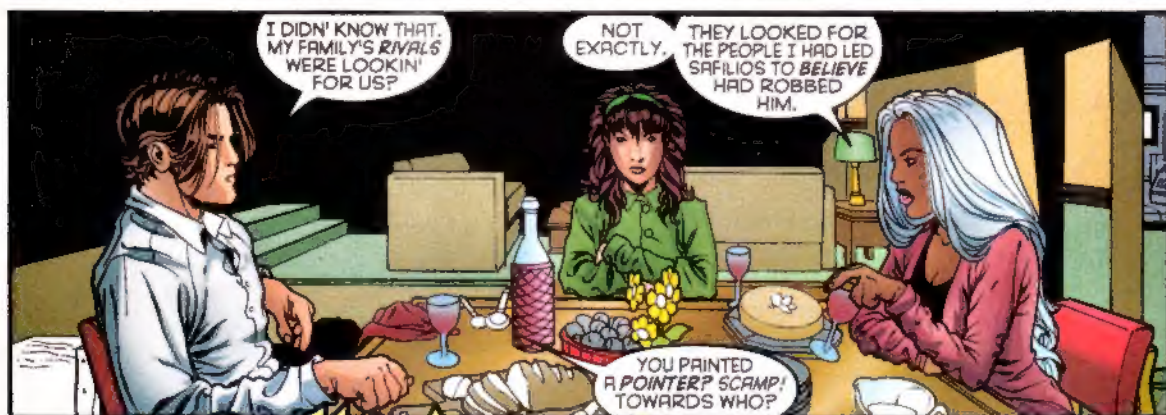
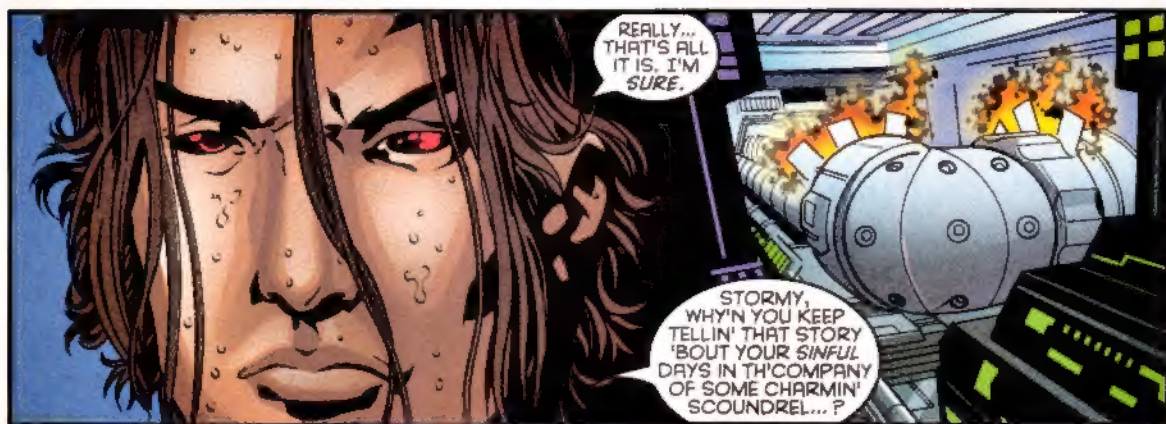












CHIK

Hmm, TALK ABOUT A DRAMATIC PAUSE.

HEY, DOC, YOU FORGET T'PAY YOUR ELECTRIC BILL!

"I'M SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU ALL IN THE DARK --

"... BUT MY SITUATION
REQUIRES I MAINTAIN
A CERTAIN AMOUNT
OF SECRECY."

INTERLUDE 1

CHIK



AAA--

"MARIAH
ELLENTHORPE."

"COSMO
STEPHANPOULUS."

"JACK
FARLEY."

"YOU WERE ALL
RECENTLY FIRED
AS THE SECURITY
FORCE FOR ELYSIAN
ENTERPRISES."

AFTER THE EVENTS OF
GAMBIT #1 -- Mark.

SINCE I FAILED IN
THE PERFORMANCE
OF MY JOB DURING
THAT OPERATION, I
FEEL A CERTAIN AMOUNT
OF RESPONSIBILITY
FOR YOUR UNFAIR
TERMINATIONS.

I AM HERE TO
OFFER YOU --
AND MYSELF --
A MEASURE OF
REDEMPTION
FOR THAT
FAILURE --

-- AND AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR
JUSTICE TO BE
SERVED ON THE
MUTANT WHO NOT
ONLY MADE FOOLS
OF US...

... BUT WHO ALSO IS
IN ALL LIKELIHOOD
A MEMBER OF THE
CRIMINAL X-MEN...

... AND IS QUITE
POSSIBLY AN
ACCESSORY TO
MURDER.

HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE TO HELP ME
NAIL GAMBIT
TO THE WALL?

THEY
SMILE.

BENEATH HIS MASK MADE
OF ALIEN POLYMERS, THE
X-CUTIONER SMILES AS
WELL.

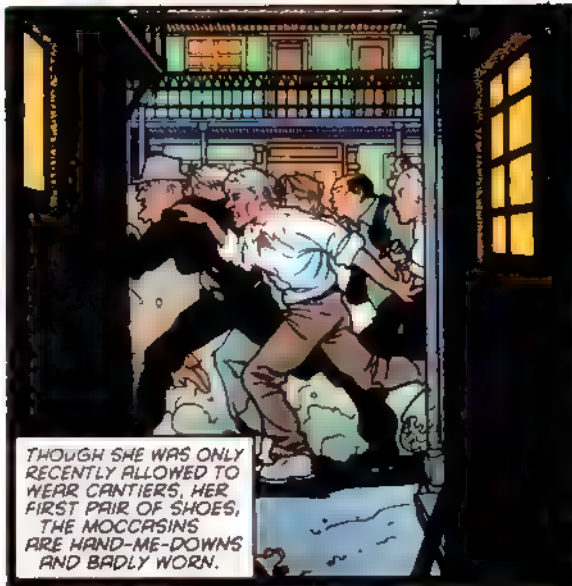
THREE MORE BULLETS
FOR THE MUTANT-HUNTER
TO LOAD INTO HIS GUN...



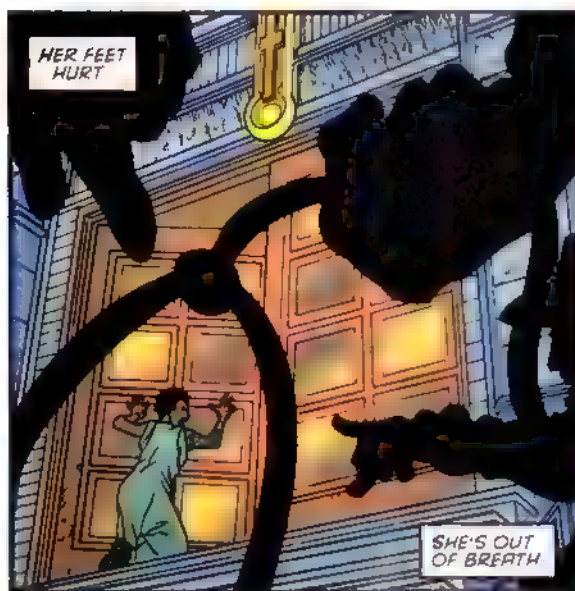
INTERLUDE 2

SHE CAN'T RUN
MUCH LONGER

SHE IS
YOUNG

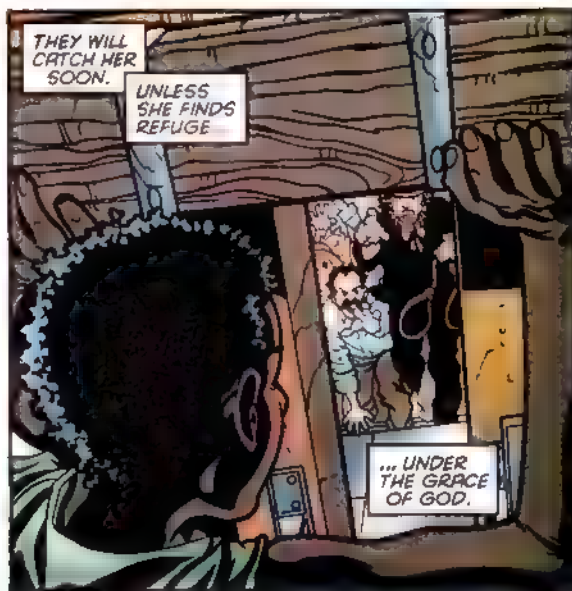


THOUGH SHE WAS ONLY
RECENTLY ALLOWED TO
WEAR CANTIERS, HER
FIRST PAIR OF SHOES,
THE MOCCASINS
ARE HAND-ME-DOWNS
AND BADLY WORN.



HER FEET
HURT

SHE'S OUT
OF BREATH



THEY WILL
CATCH HER
SOON.

UNLESS
SHE FINDS
REFUGE

... UNDER
THE GRACE
OF GOD.



IT IS UNFAIR OF THEM
TO EXPECT A TRAITHEUR
IN TRAINING TO HEAL
SOMEONE AS SICK
AS DUCLIZE
BOURDOIS.

WHO --?

OH, I
UNDERSTAND
YOUR FEAR, TANTE
MATTIE -- YOUR
FRUSTRATION...

HOW'D
YOU KNOW
MY --? WAIT --
ST. JOHN'S
CHURCH --
DE MOB --

-- I'M A
LITTLE
GIRL -- DIS
IS 1891 --

-- I'M
DREAMIN'!



UH,
VERY GOOD,
CHILD...

... I DO
SO RARELY
DREAMSCRAPE
ANYONE CAPABLE
OF REALIZING
IT.

CALL ME
FONTANELLE. I
AM, BY PROFESSION,
SOMETHING OF A...
THERAPIST...

... BUT FOR
NOW, I HAVE
BEEN CONSIGNED
TO PLAY THE
PART OF...
DETECTIVE.

YOU HAVE
LEARNED MUCH
IN YOUR LONG
LIFE, TANTE
MATTIE



BUT AS INTERESTING AS IT
WOULD BE TO SCRAPE AROUND
YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS FOR A
WHILE, I AM HERE WITH VERY
SPECIFIC INTERESTS...

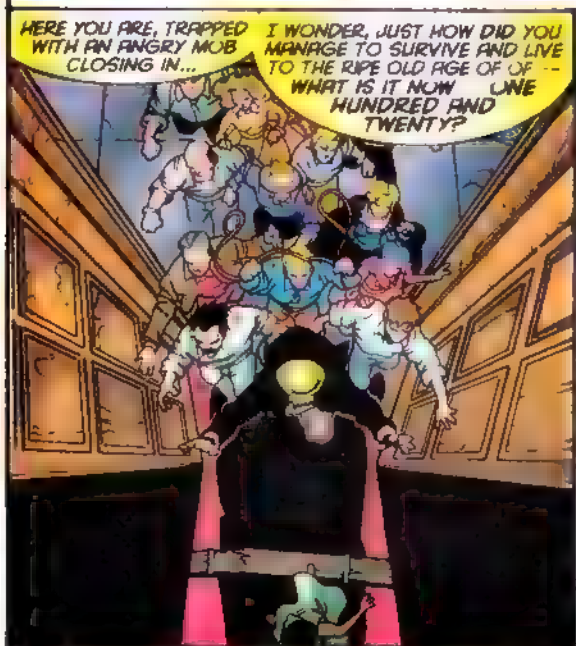
BUT IF I
KNOW DIS IS
A DREAM, WHY'M
I SO SCARED --
LIKE I REALLY
WAS --

-- UY BE
DUCILIZE
WAS A POWERFUL
MARGUILLER -- A
CHURCHWARDEN --



-- I TOL 'EM I DIDN' HAVE
A POWERFUL ENOUGH
SACHET T'HEAL
HIM --

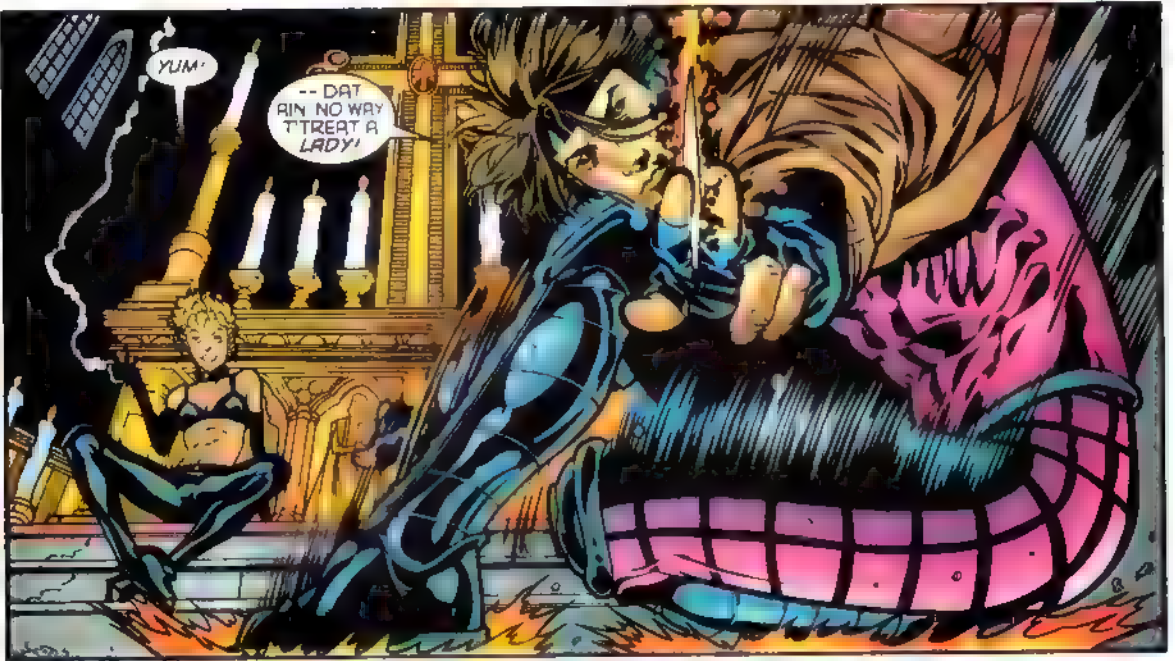
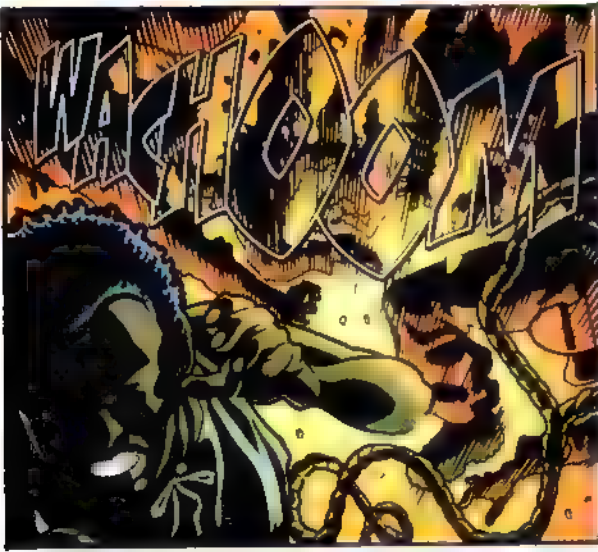
AND THEY
DIDN'T LISTENP
BRUTES.

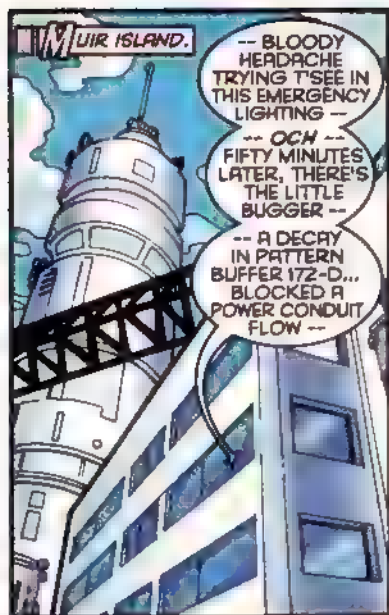


HERE YOU ARE, TRAPPED
WITH AN ANGRY MOB
CLOSING IN...

I WONDER, JUST HOW DID YOU
MANAGE TO SURVIVE AND LIVE
TO THE RIPE OLD AGE OF OF --
WHAT IS IT NOW ONE
HUNDRED AND
TWENTY?





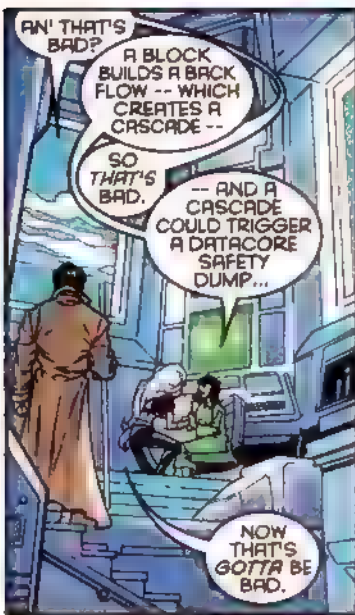


MUIR ISLAND.

-- BLOODY HEADACHE TRYING T'SEE IN THIS EMERGENCY LIGHTING --

-- OCH -- FIFTY MINUTES LATER, THERE'S THE LITTLE BUGGER --

-- A DECAY IN PATTERN BUFFER 172-D... BLOCKED A POWER CONDUIT FLOW --



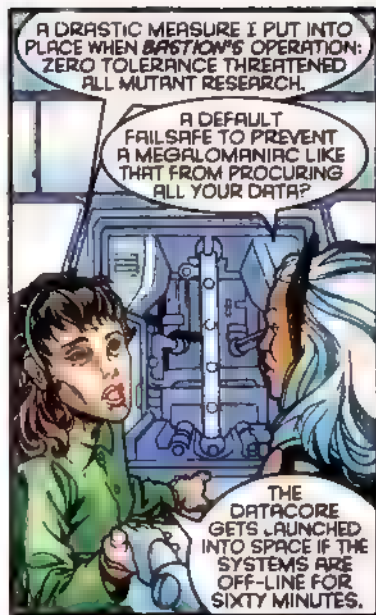
AN' THAT'S BAD?

A BLOCK BUILDS A BACK FLOW -- WHICH CREATES A CASCADE --

SO THAT'S BAD.

-- AND A CASCADE COULD TRIGGER A DATACORE SAFETY DUMP...

NOW THAT'S GOTTA BE BAD.



A DRASTIC MEASURE I PUT INTO PLACE WHEN BASTION'S OPERATION: ZERO TOLERANCE THREATENED ALL MUTANT RESEARCH.

A DEFAULT FAILSAFE TO PREVENT A MEGALOMANIAC LIKE THAT FROM PROCURING ALL YOUR DATA?

THE DATACORE GETS LAUNCHED INTO SPACE IF THE SYSTEMS ARE OFF-LINE FOR SIXTY MINUTES.

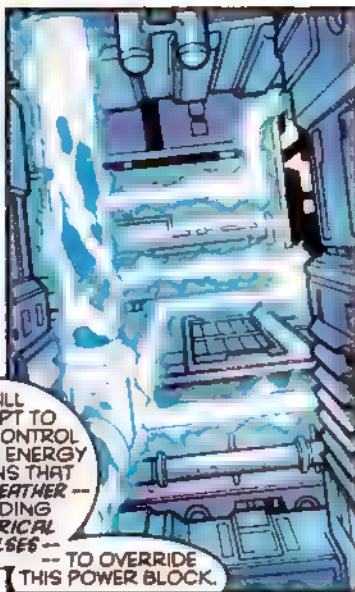


WE'RE AT FIFTY-TWO AND COUNTING!

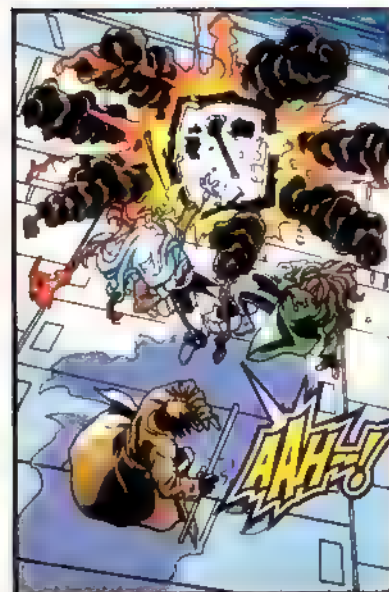
WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO CONTINUE THIS WAY!

I WILL ATTEMPT TO USE MY CONTROL OVER THE ENERGY PATTERNS THAT GOVERN WEATHER -- INCLUDING ELECTRICAL IMPULSES --

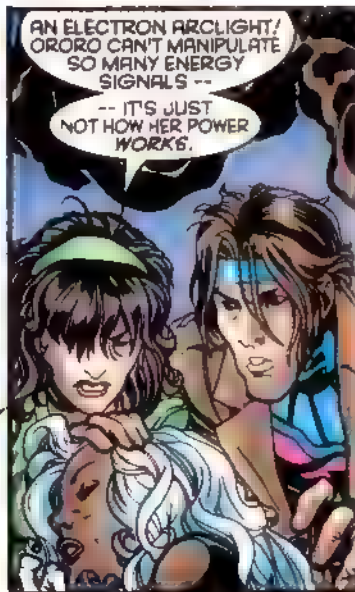
-- TO OVERRIDE THIS POWER BLOCK.



NEVER TRIED -- TO CONTROL -- SUCH INFINITESIMAL -- AMOUNTS -- OF ENERGY --



AAH!!

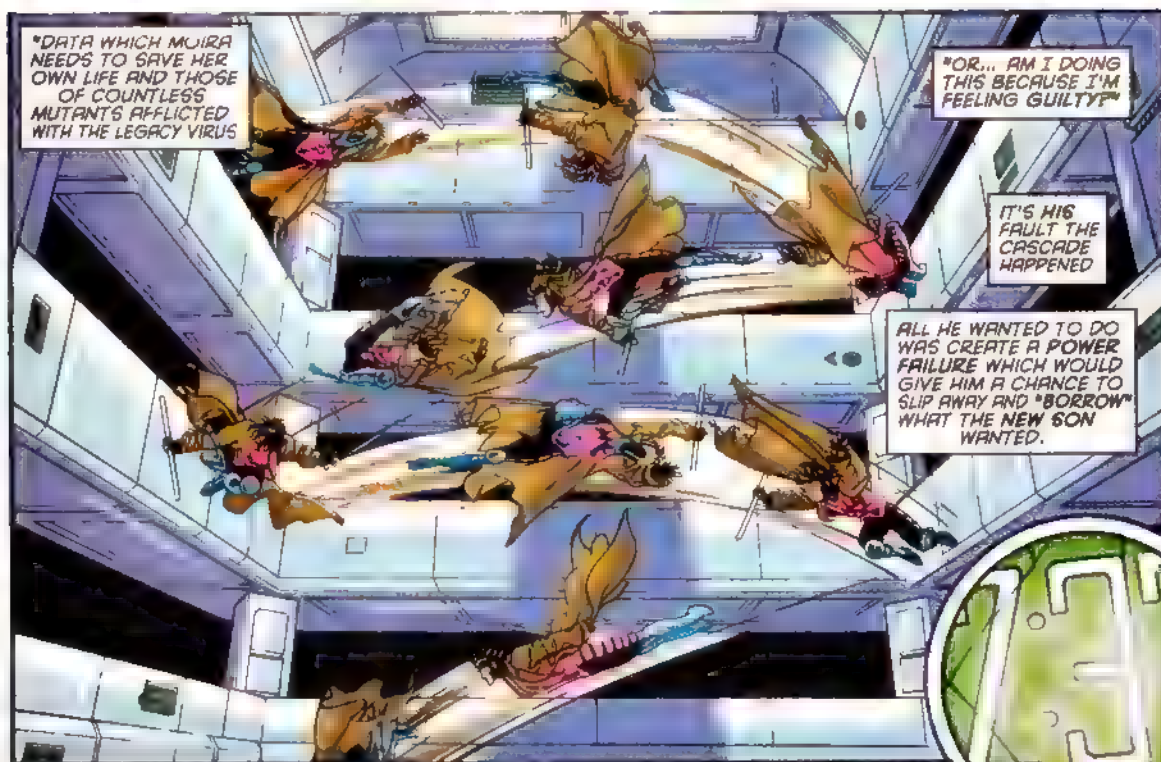
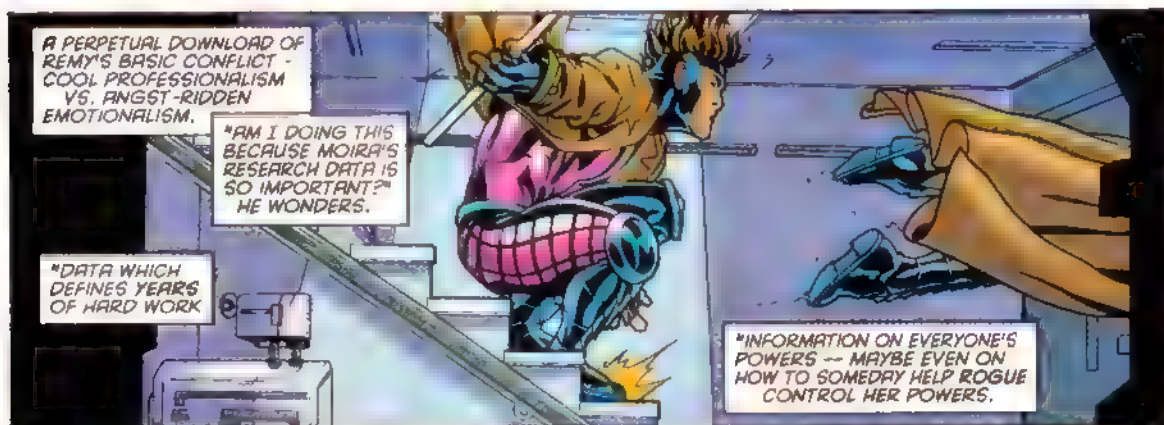


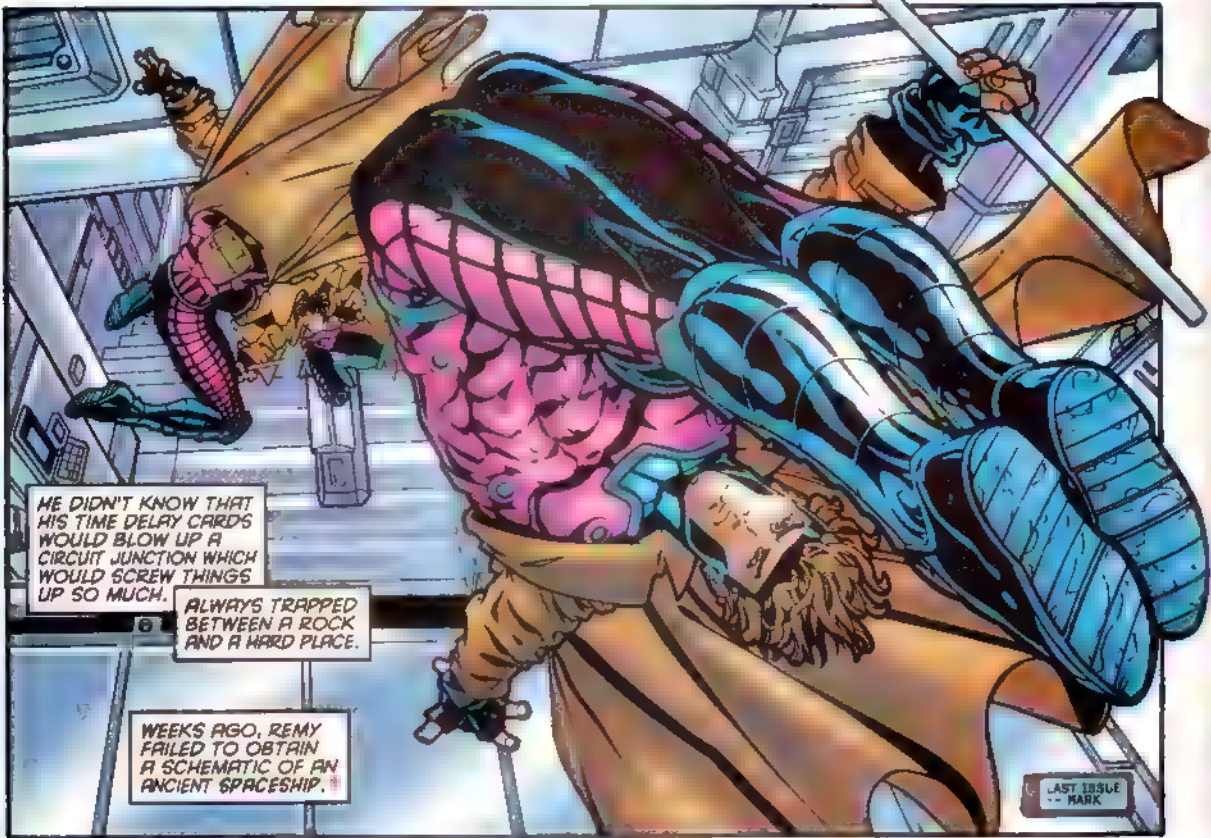
AN ELECTRON ARCLIGHT! ORORO CAN'T MANIPULATE SO MANY ENERGY SIGNALS --

-- IT'S JUST NOT HOW HER POWER WORKS.



WELL, BEIN' AS HOW THE CLOCK IS TICKIN' HERE --



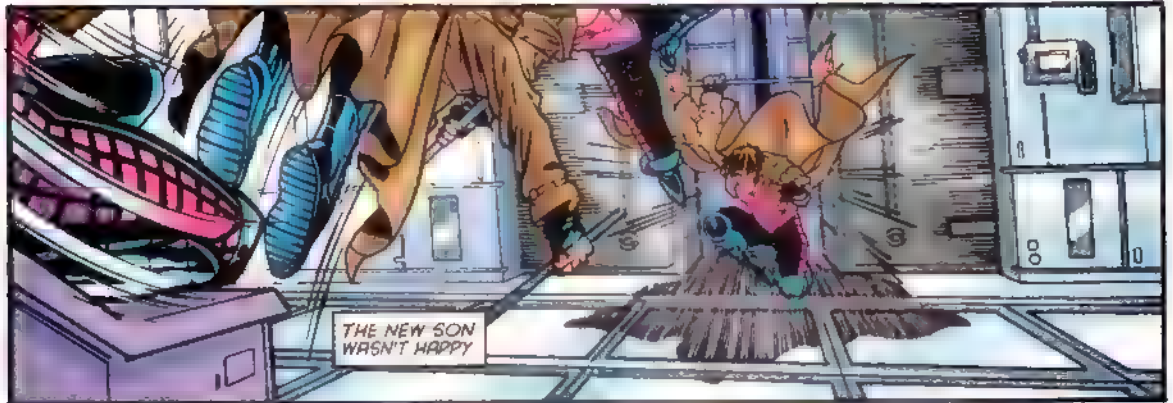


HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT HIS TIME DELAY CARDS WOULD BLOW UP A CIRCUIT JUNCTION WHICH WOULD SCREW THINGS UP SO MUCH.

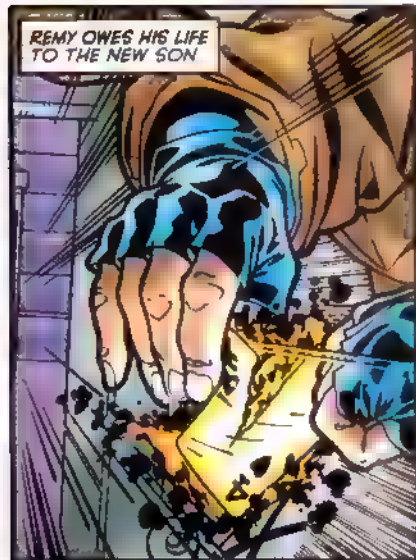
ALWAYS TRAPPED BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE.

WEEKS AGO, REMY FAILED TO OBTAIN A SCHEMATIC OF AN ANCIENT SPACESHIP.

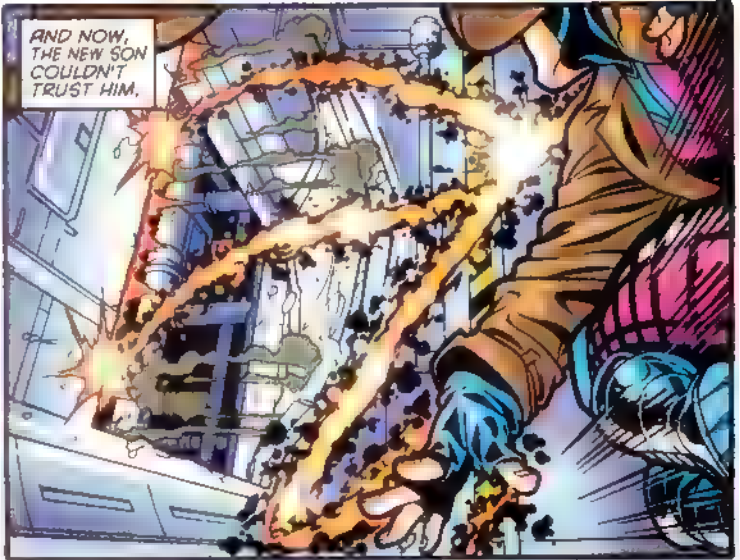
LAST ISSUE
-- MARK



THE NEW SON WASN'T HAPPY



REMY OWES HIS LIFE TO THE NEW SON

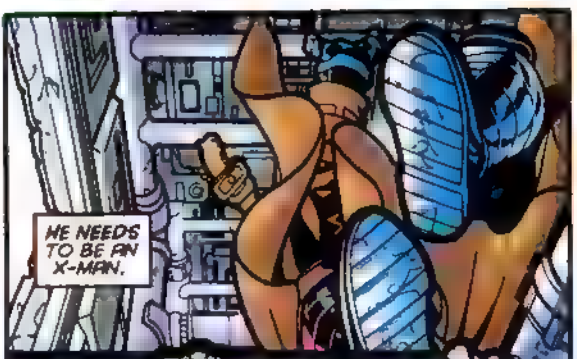
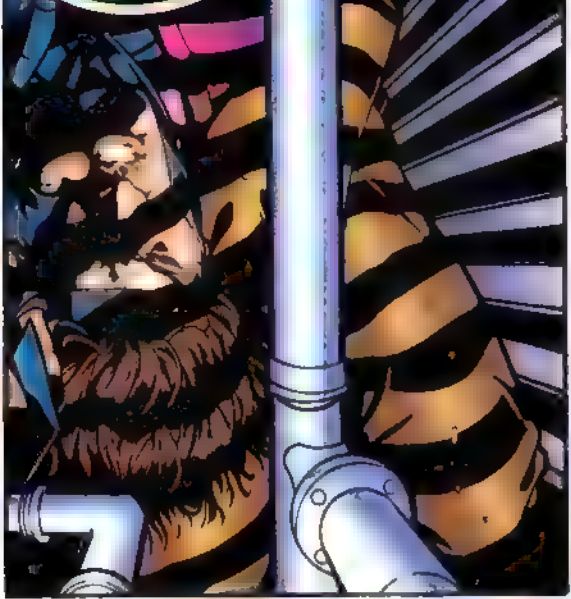


AND NOW, THE NEW SON COULDN'T TRUST HIM.

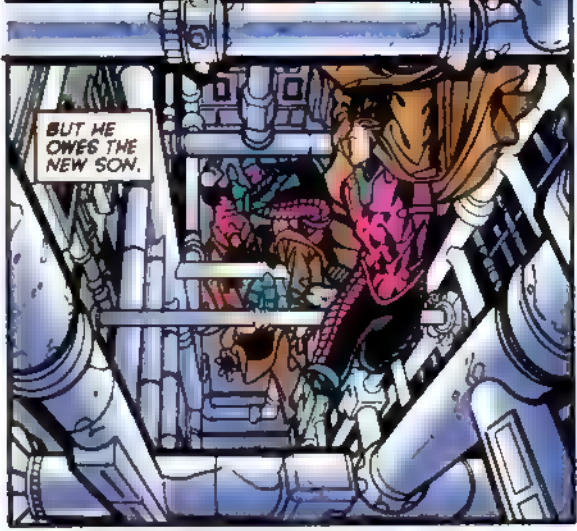


SO HE (SHE, OR IT, GAMBIT DOESN'T KNOW) DECIDED TO REALLY TEST REMY.

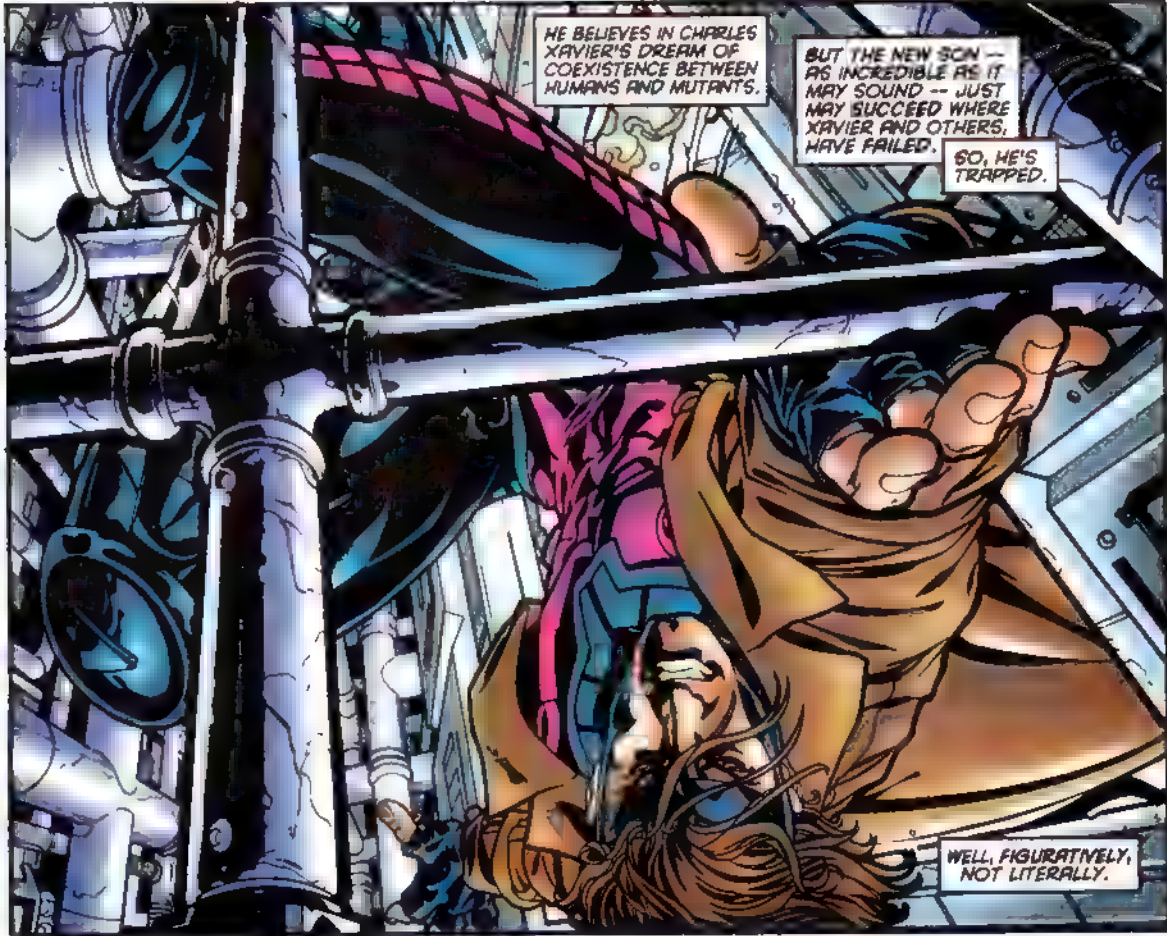
HE KNEW ASKING REMY TO OBTAIN MOIRA'S RECORDS WOULD COMPROMISE HIS LOYALTY TO THE X-MEN.



HE NEEDS TO BE AN X-MAN.



BUT HE OWES THE NEW SON.

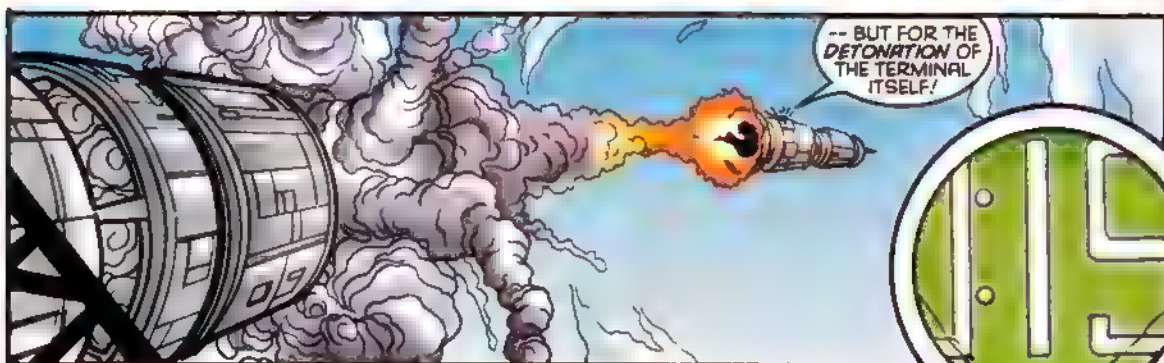
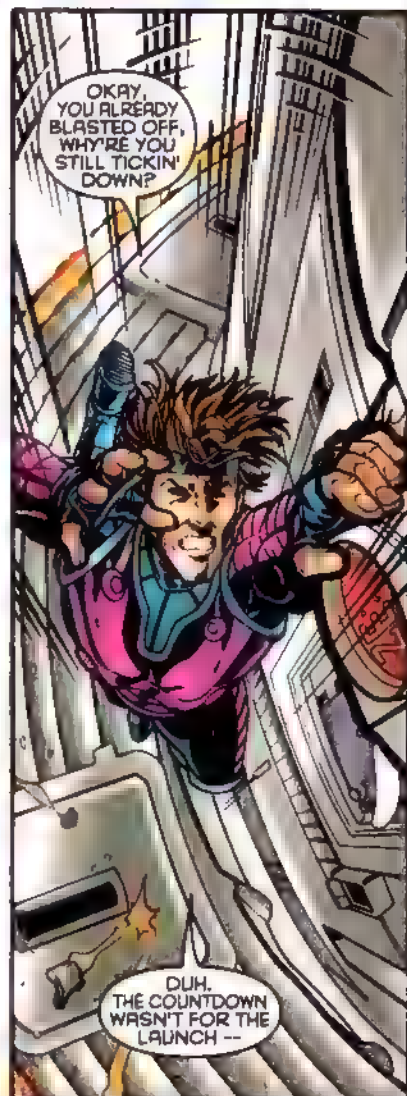
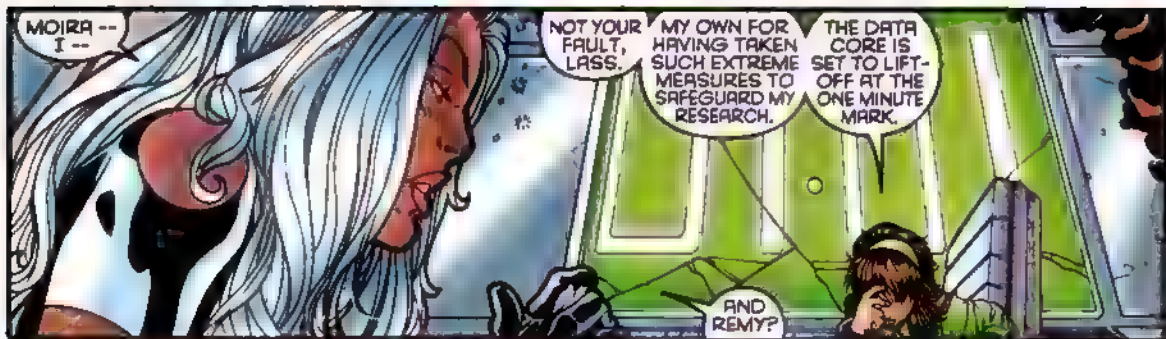


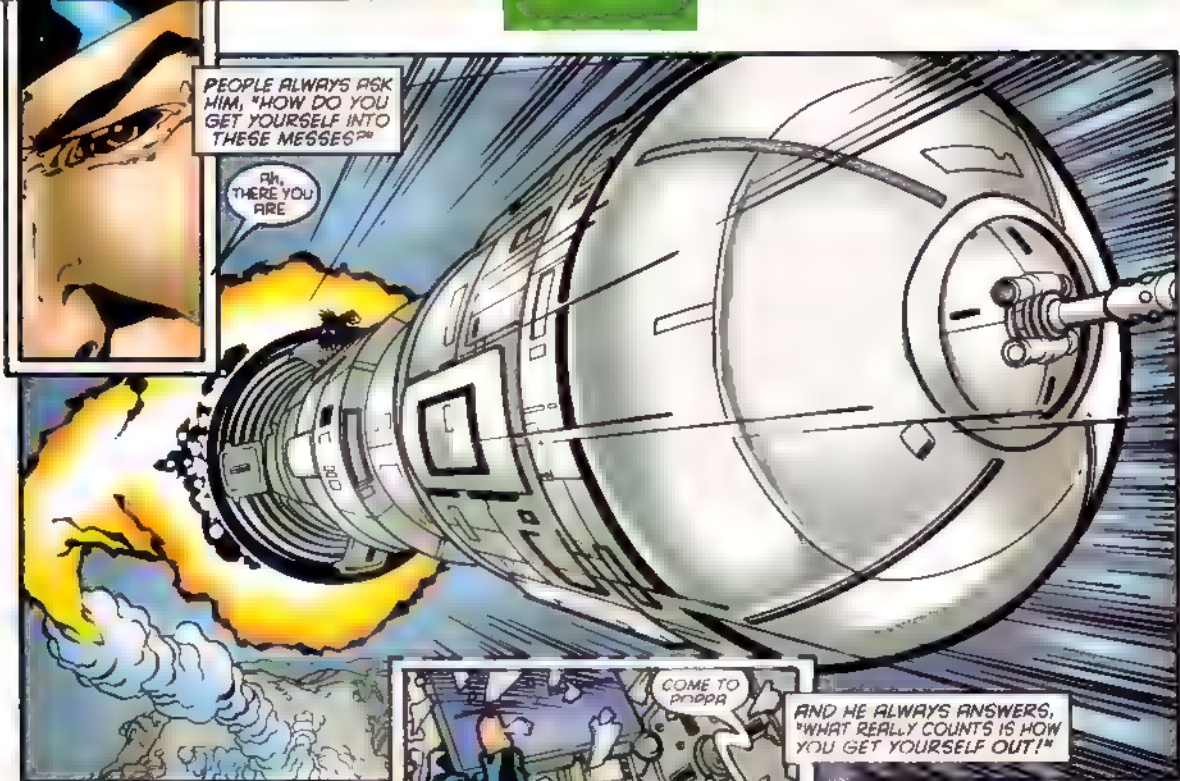
HE BELIEVES IN CHARLES XAVIER'S DREAM OF COEXISTENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS.

BUT THE NEW SON -- AS INCREDIBLE AS IT MAY SOUND -- JUST MAY SUCCEED WHERE XAVIER AND OTHERS, HAVE FAILED.

SO, HE'S TRAPPED.

WELL, FIGURATIVELY, NOT LITERALLY.





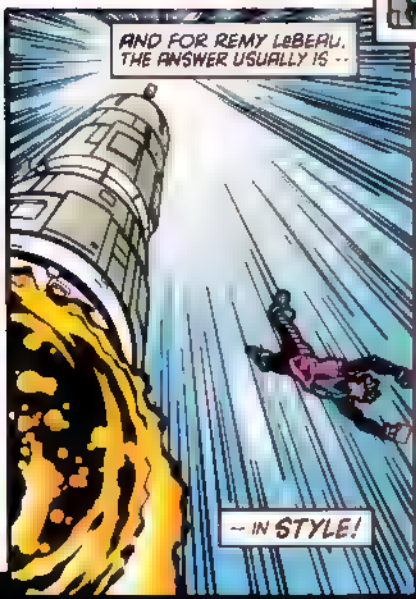
PEOPLE ALWAYS ASK HIM, "HOW DO YOU GET YOURSELF INTO THESE MESSSES?"

AH, THERE YOU ARE



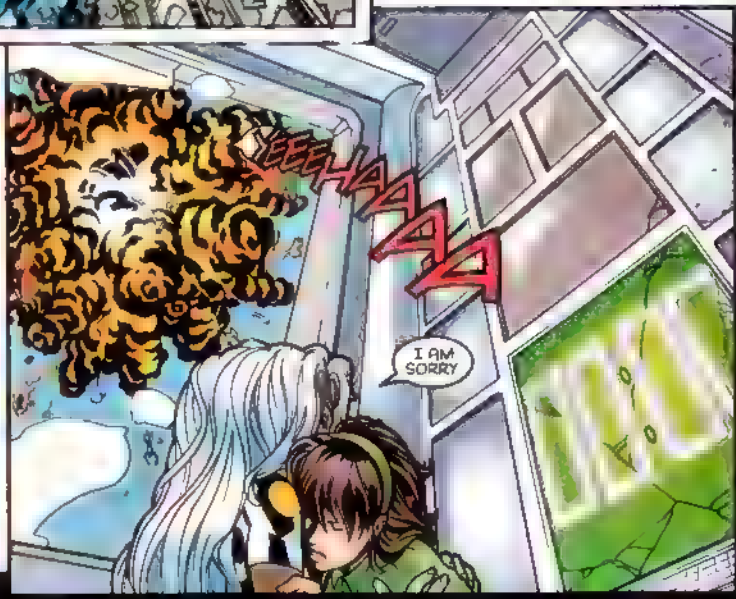
COME TO PAPA

AND HE ALWAYS ANSWERS, "WHAT REALLY COUNTS IS HOW YOU GET YOURSELF OUT!"

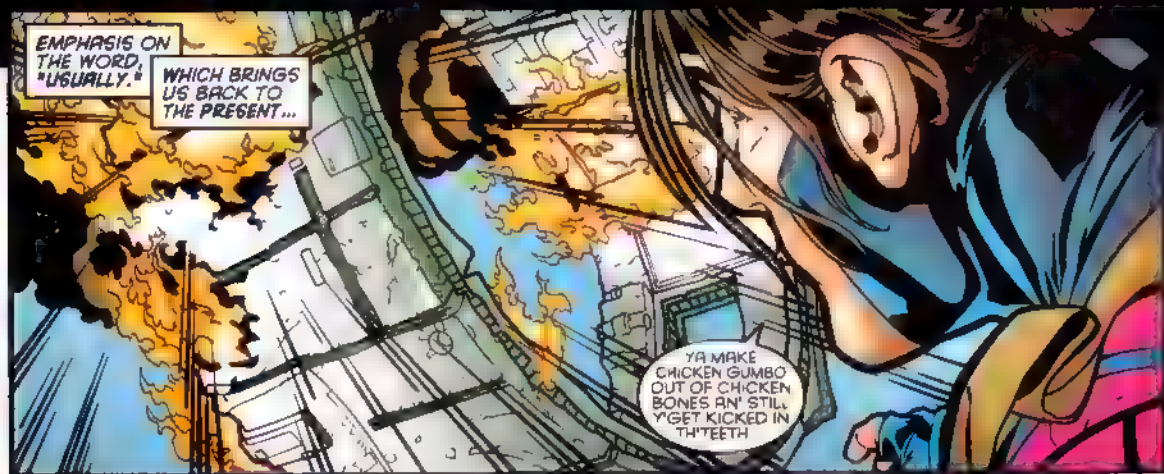


AND FOR REMY LEBEAU, THE ANSWER USUALLY IS --

-- IN STYLE!



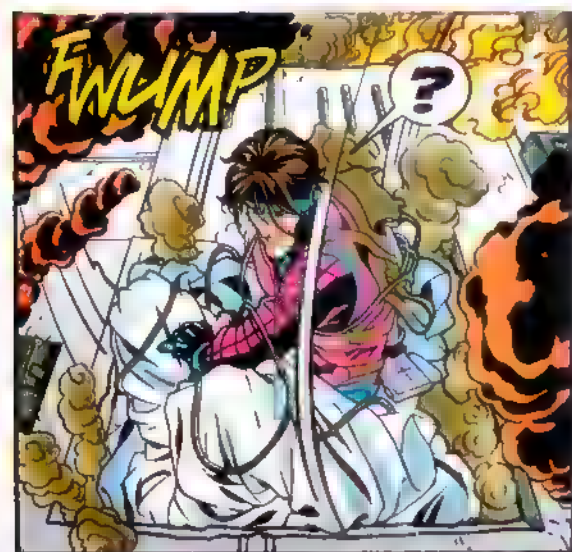
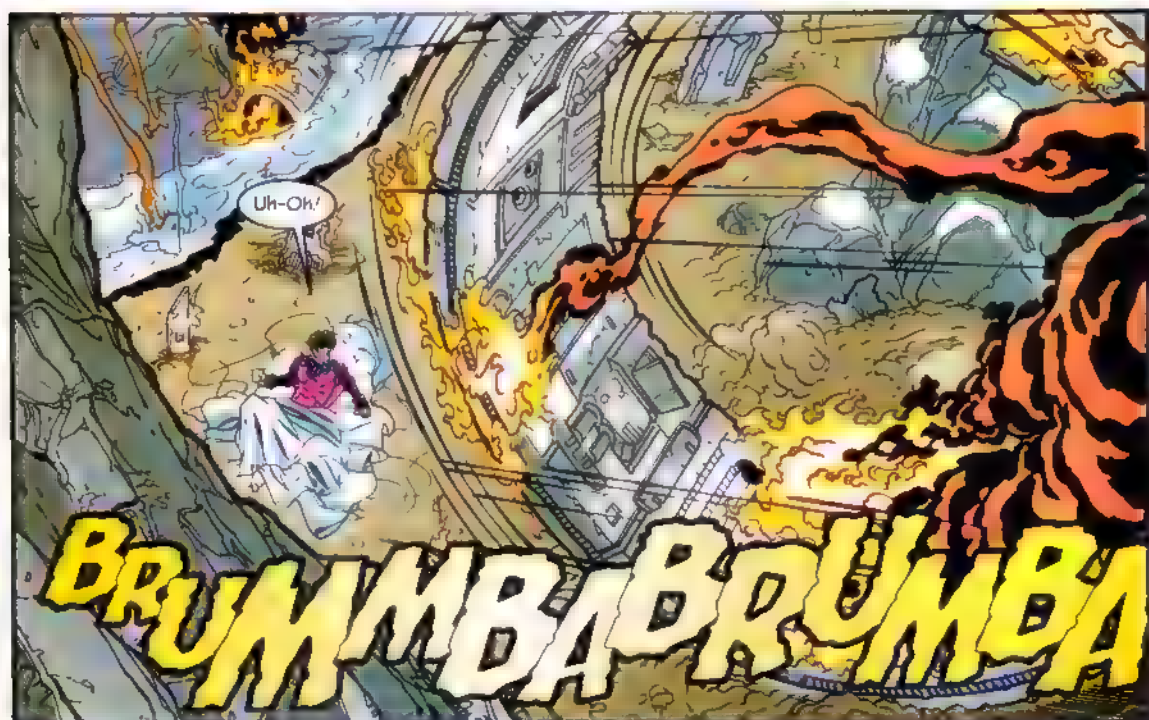
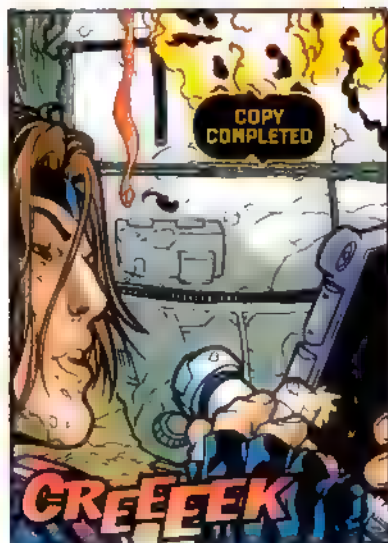
I AM SORRY

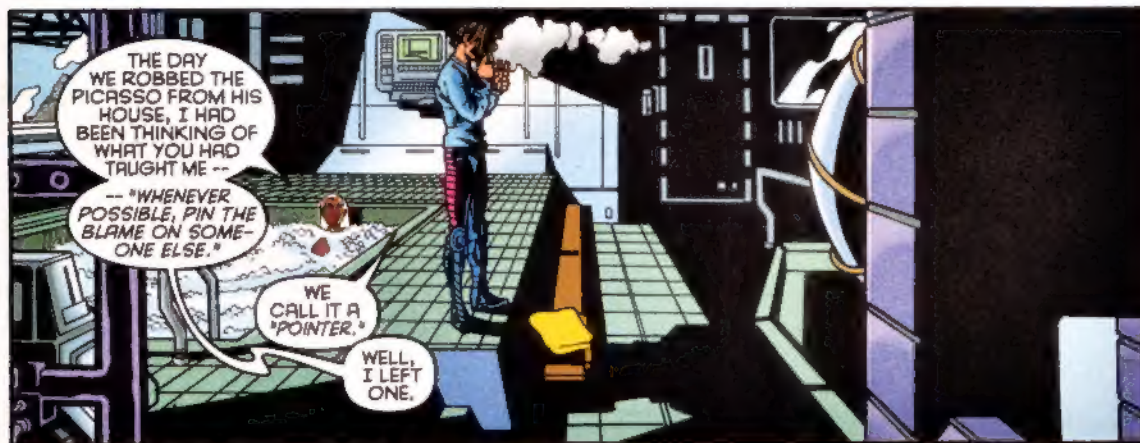
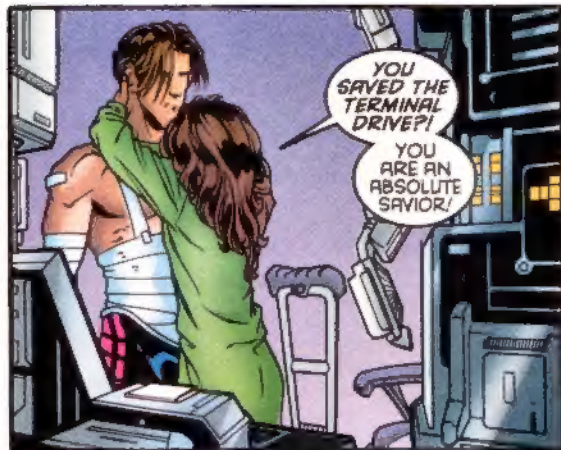
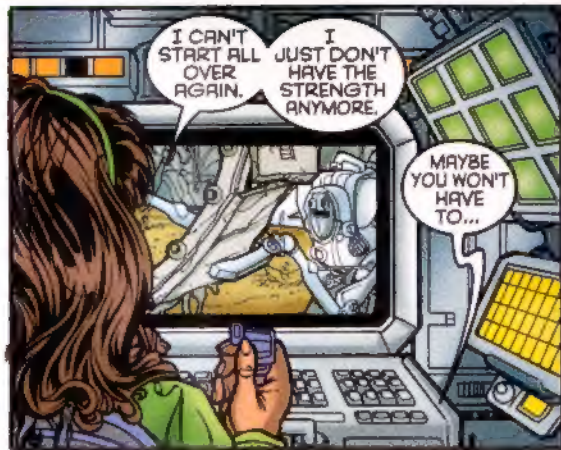
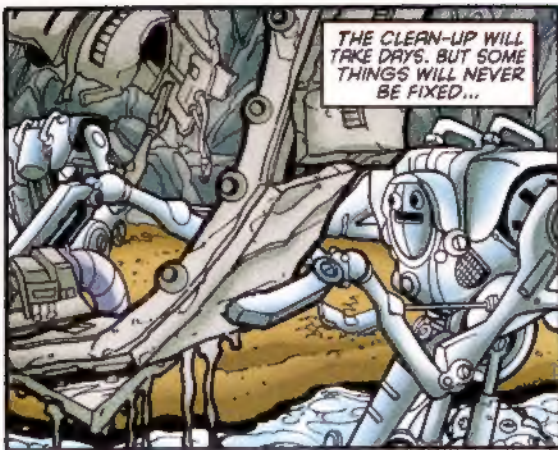


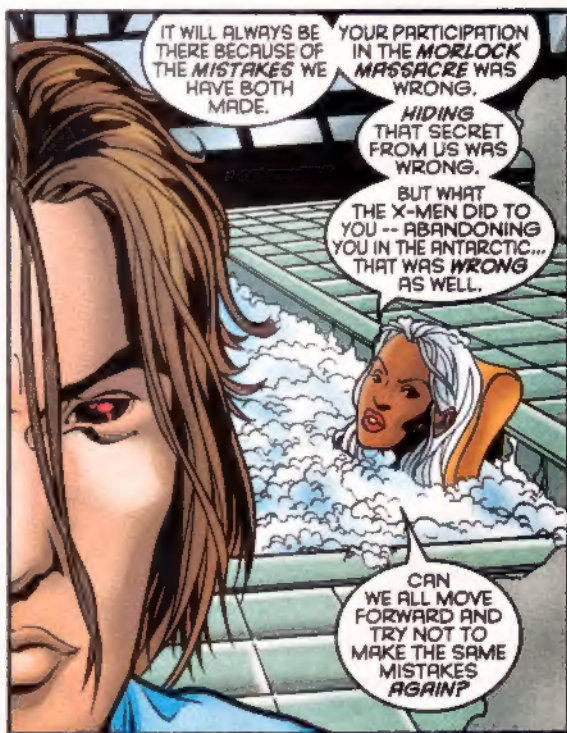
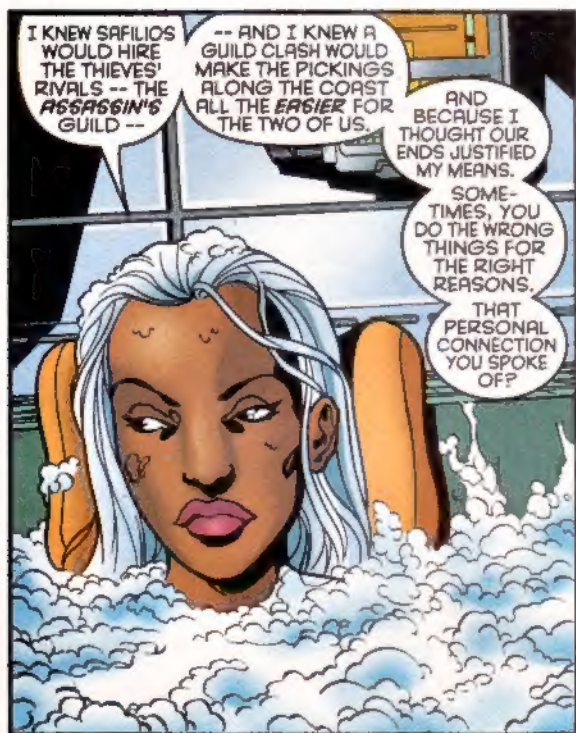
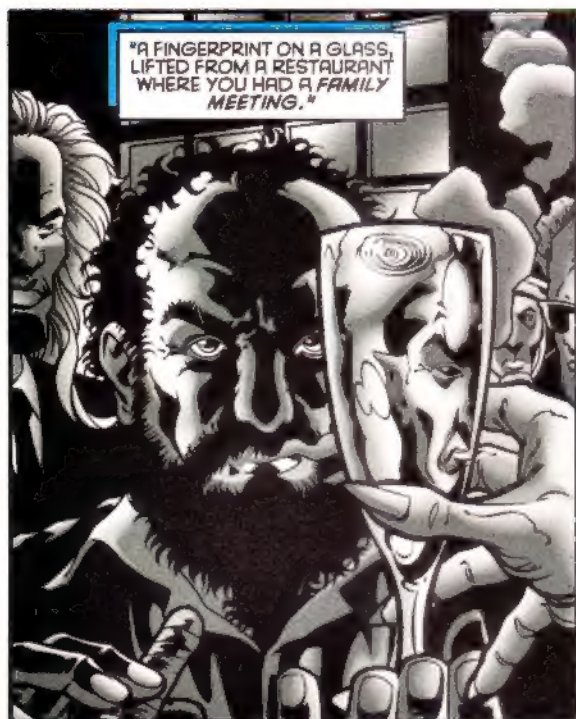
EMPHASIS ON THE WORD, "USUALLY."

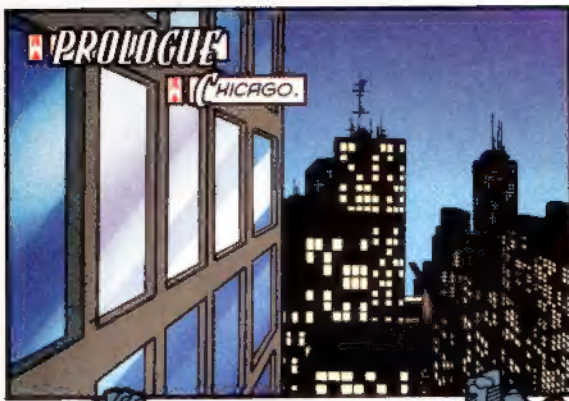
WHICH BRINGS US BACK TO THE PRESENT...

YA MAKE CHICKEN GUMBO OUT OF CHICKEN BONES AN' STILL Y'GET KICKED IN THE TEETH









ZOINKS!

We knew there were quite a few Gambit fans out there, but nothing could have prepared us jaded editors for the veritable onslaught (no pun intended) of electronic mail we received about the *Ragin' Cajun's* first issue. As of this writing, *GAMBIT #1* has been on the racks for exactly two weeks, and we've already got enough mail to fill the first few issues worth of letters pages! You all seemed especially eager to voice your opinions on our informal poll, and while we still intend to bring you the final tally in issue #4, there's no harm in checking the early results now, is there?

Dear Unnamed-Letters-Page-That'll-No-Doubt-Have-the-Word-Card in it,

Fantastic job on *GAMBIT #1*, you guys. It's great to have Fabian Nicieza back! I was a little worried when I heard Gambit was getting his own series, but then once Fabian and Steve Skroce were announced as the creative team, I knew we were in for a well-told book. Hats off for living up to my expectations!

Anyway, on with your quick questionnaire:
1) I'd like to see Gambit fight, or meet up with, of course Mr. Sinister and Sabretooth. These are the two villains fans'll want to see Gambit fight, but more importantly, the villains Gambit needs to fight. It's logical. And as obvious as those villains may be, there's nothing wrong with giving fans what they want. Other villains I'd like to see Gambit fight would be Kurt Busiek's new Masters of Evil and Elektra (not a villain, no, but that would definitely be an interesting fight!), and I'd love to see Gambit kick Batroc back to France sometime. How about Gambit running across SHIELD and Nick Fury sometime?

2) The hero I really want to see Gambit team up with, or just talk with, sometime soon is Marrow. I don't know if we'll get a chance to see them explore their past in X-MEN, so how about here? Outside the X-Circle (glad Storm's going to be in #2; do please play up their friendship) I'd like to see Gambit run into the Thunderbolts at some point. Seems a natural team-up, outlaws with shady pasts trying to redeem themselves and all. Seeing Moonstone's take on Gambit alone would be worth it. Also, because I fear his title's cancellation is imminent, I'd really like to see Deadpool pop up here once or twice, either as foe or reluctant friend. I imagine he, like the T-Bolts, would have a lot in common with Remy. Keep Cable, X-Man, and Wolverine away, though! Let Kitty and Nightcrawler show up here every now and then. All three are long-standing X-Men, but they hardly know each other. I'd particularly like to see Kitty and Gambit's relationship further explored. Use this book to shine the light on some personal interplay between the X-Men and Gambit, but also make sure to distance it enough from the X-Men, kind of like Deadpool has done.

3) As to what characters we haven't seen in a while, I'm not sure how broad a range you're talking about here, but I'd love to see any of the following

pop up here: Nova, Cloak and Dagger, Jessica Drew, She-Hulk, Moira MacTaggart, Charlotte Jones, Iron Fist, Namor, and Daimon Hellstrom.

4) Never come back?

Any Acolyte, (especially either Cortez or Exodus), Bishop, Ghost Rider (ah wait, Howard Mackie isn't writing this book, is he?), Blink, Joseph, Nanny, and Orphan Maker.

5) Absolute favorite Gambit moment? Hmm... "Bang, you dead" is up there, same with when Gambit charged up the basketball in X-MEN #4, but the exploding pie in X-MEN #8 I think was my favorite.

Once again, great job guys, especially to Fabian. Keep it up, and I'll keep reading! Hope this was of some help.

Will Moss
Wmoss14@aol.com

Thanks for the letter, Will. We join you in welcoming Fabian and Steve back into the Marvel family after their respective sabbaticals.

It should surprise no one that you were not alone in naming Sabretooth and Sinister as your top two choices for villains; both have so far been nearly unanimous choices. You weren't even the only one to peg Batroc the Leaper! What's up with that? As for Marrow, be on the lookout for a major turning point Remy's relationship with the troubled young Morlock in X-MEN #88-90! That's all we can say right now!

Hey Gumbo Guys,

Glad to see the *Ragin' Cajun* finally has his own monthly! 'Bout freakin' time! Heh, well, glad that Nicieza's on the job. He's done the most for the 'Man of Steel' next to Howard Mackie, who wrote all of the limited series.

Rather than gush about the book (or complain about the missing gatefold cover), I think I'll address the questions you posed at the end of your first issue:

1. What villain should Gambit go up against? Batroc Ze Leaper! You just know these two have a history together.

2. What heroes should team up with and/or fight Gambit? Deadpool and Wolverine, though not necessarily at the same time. Sure they're already in the X-camp (sorta), but it'd still be good to see Gambit and one of these two in several issues together.

3. What characters should be brought back? Julien, Belladonna's brother. It's hard to believe that someone given the Serum of Life could be done in by a few dozen arrows. And maybe this time you can address his powers and appearance from the X-Men/Ghost Rider crossover (he was much deadlier there!).

4. What characters should never come back? Spat and Grovel, or whatever their names were. That 'little' girl and her 'pet' creature. Ugh.

5. What is my favorite Gambit moment? Any moment where I learn something new and unexpected about the thief, like when we learned he was married.

Well, that about covers it. Just maintain the Marvel standard of excellence and I'm happy. Until Sabretooth is revealed to be Gambit's real father, Make Mine Mutants...er...Marvel!

Kevin Garcia
brandechh@hotmail.com

Will do, citizen!

Thanks for the missive, and for the confidence in this project. The only problem is, we have no intention of maintaining the "Marvel standard of excellence"...we plan on surpassing said standard! Better buckle your seatbelt, Kevin.

Dear Mark,

First off, allow me to say that as a rabid, raving and unrepentant Gambit fan, overall I was quite pleased with the first issue of *GAMBIT*, and I look forward to seeing what else Fabian has in store for us in future months.

Now, as to your questions:

1. What villains would I most like to see Gambit go up against? Sabretooth is an obvious choice, as is Sinister, due to the ugly history Gambit has with both of them. I also like the idea of his going up against Mystique, as that would be a real test of strategy, not to mention adding a fair amount of internal conflict into the mix.

2a. What heroes would I like to see Gambit team up with? Rogue, clearly—when the two of them are written well, they're unbeatable. There's a real Bogart and Bacall chemistry to them, and with Rogue's background with Mystique, she's a capable counterpart to my favorite thief. Pete Wisdom is another—the contrast between Gambit, the smooth charmer and the irascible, rude-and-proud-of-it Wisdom would be a winning combination. Although he is not a hero *per se*, I would love a story wherein Remy worked with his foster father, Jean-Luc LeBeau.

2b. What heroes would I like Gambit to battle? Well, Angel is a logical choice here, due to the impact the Mutant Massacre had upon Warren. I also like the idea of Remy throwing down with Wolverine.

3. What character should be brought back? Pete Wisdom. No contest.

4. What character should never be brought back? The Green Mist creature currently inhabiting Remy's body. She should be consigned to oblivion ASAP, never to return, as the poor plot device she is.

5. What is my all-time favorite Gambit moment and why? Hard to say—there are so many—but I would say the one where he comforts a blinded Rogue on the mansion rooftop. It's a heartbreakingly tender moment and shows completely the depth of feeling Remy is capable of in a very understated way.

There's my two-hundredth of a dollar...

Elena Zovatto
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Thanks, Elena. Like Will at the top of the page, you also raise a topic which has been echoed by your fellow fans: the inevitable Gambit/Angel confrontation. There's no way we can put this one off forever (although we can certainly try...heh, heh, heh) but only time will tell if it unfolds in the manner that any of us might expect...

NEXT-ISSUE:

ENTER-- THE MENG BROTHERS?!

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